

See 4-6, 4

WELLS, D.K.

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Goodman, Steve

Wohl, Burton

LA-63-65

25 January 1965

Subject: Warner Brothers - 'The Noble Profession'

Ref : (a) [redacted]  
(b) [redacted]

1. The following is of interest to the Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs.

2. At their request, representatives of Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., were interviewed on 22 Jan 65 by [redacted] of this office. Arrangements were initiated by [redacted] at Warner Bros., and a former USMC colonel, now heading public relations at the studio.

3. The interview was with Steve Goodman, a WB producer, and Burton Wohl, a writer. Their purpose was to solicit advice or guidance in connection with the proposed film built on the novel, 'The Noble Profession,' by Pierre Boulle. As indicated below, they were referred to the Office of the Director.

4. Wohl, a writer, is updating the plot of the above novel, transferring it from a story of the French underground of WW II, operating from England, to a Cold War contemporaneous setting of U.S. agent operations in East Germany directed from Geneva. Wohl, who claims once to have been employed by Radio Free Europe, following a tour as a public affairs officer of State in Rome, seems generally familiar with intelligence terminology, prominent intelligence operatives of WW II and later, and a reader of most of the current literature. He seems especially anxious that his techniques have the touch of authenticity, and posed questions on communications -- voice and code, microdot, miniaturization, and esoteric (as he put it) weapons, on all of which [redacted] pled complete ignorance.

5. According to Wohl, his purpose (inasmuch as he is a great admirer of the professionalism and dedication of government employees, he says) is to reflect as creditably as possible on the agency, whether or not its name is used in the film - a decision not as yet reached.

6. Wohl and Goodman were both advised that requests for guidance of the nature they wanted would have to be referred to the Director, and that there was no assurance that they would receive any more than a courteous negative reply. It was suggested, however, that some help in the gadgetry might be found in books now available, for example, Stanley Lovell's 'Of Spies & Strategems.'

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